77TH GOLDEN MIKE AWARDS®

Honoring Excellence in Broadcast News

The Golden Mike Awards® are Southern California's most prestigious, and most coveted, broadcast journalism prize. What sets the Golden Mikes apart from other competitions is the "Golden Mike Standard of Excellence", appended below. Unlike most awards contests in which winners are determined by selecting which entry is the "best" among all those submitted in each category, winners of the Golden Mike Awards®" must also meet the "Standard of Excellence". If the judges decide that no entry in a category meets the "Standard of Excellence", then no award is given in that category. As a result, Golden Mike Award® winners know that their work has been judged to be "excellent", as well as the "best".

The Golden Mike Awards® are presented at an industry event which is both congratulatory and celebratory. For more than 75 years, the Radio & Television News Association of Southern California has promoted excellence in broadcast journalism through the Golden Mike Awards® and is committed to continuing that legacy into the future.

STANDARD OF EXCELLENCE

To maintain the integrity of judging, the RTNA relies on qualified broadcast and media professionals from around the country.

CONTEST RULES AND INSTRUCTIONS FOR ENTRY

1. DIVISION DESIGNATION

1.1 In the competition for certain awards, the categories for radio and TV are divided into groups according to staff size. There are 2 groups, designated as Division A and Division B.

1.2 **Radio, Division A**
Six (6) or more news staff members.

Radio, Division B
Five (5) or fewer news staff members.

Television, Division A
Thirty-five (35) or more news staff members.

Television, Division B
Thirty-four (34) or fewer news staff members.

1.3 In determining staff size, count all people used on the "Designated News Day" who spend on News, including News Director and administrative staff, reporters and talent, technical staff including editors and field crews, writers, producers, researchers, newsroom production support staff and daily hires. Also include people who contribute to the newscast that are employed by outside vendors under contract to the station. The size of staff should be counted according to these criteria, on the "Designated News Day". Stations that share facilities, equipment, and/or staff with another station must consider the size of the combined operation in determining Division status. Work produced by an outside production company is not eligible.

1.4 A Division B station wishing to enter in Division A may do so. However, a station cannot enter in a lower division. Individuals working for a Division A station may not enter in Division B on behalf of its lower division affiliates.

1.5 A station or individual using these Golden Mike Awards® for any promotional purpose must state clearly which division they are in. Publicity announcements cannot be made before the Golden Mikes are awarded at the Golden Mike Awards® Dinner. The "Golden Mike Rule 1.5 Affirmation" checkbox must be marked on the On-line Entry Form.

2. COMPETITION FOR THE RTNA GOLDEN MIKE AWARDS® is limited to the News Departments of Radio and Television stations licensed and/or operated within the following Southern California counties, and local cable News Departments or News Services for cable companies franchised within the same counties: Los Angeles, Orange, San Diego, Riverside, San Bernardino, Ventura, Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, Fresno, Imperial, Inyo, Kern, Kings and Tulare. There are three exceptions in the Television Awards: Category TV-18 is for cable and broadcast networks ONLY, statewide categories are open outside the RTNA service area; College-affiliated stations are eligible to enter Division B if the school facilities are physically located within the contest area and the station produces at least 30 minutes of news five days a week. (Please note that individuals working in eligible News Departments may submit entries per Rule 6.7)
New specialty categories have been created which allow entries from stations outside the RTNA service area. Statewide categories include A&B divisions and Digital Categories are open to all entrants in and outside the RTNA contest area. The only exceptions are Digital Categories P1 and P2 which are only open to entrants in the RTNA service area.

2.1 Each news story may not be entered into more than two categories with the exception that the same story may also be entered into the writing, editing, videography, and sound categories, if applicable.

3. ELIGIBILITY/CONTEST PERIOD

3.1 Entries must have been originally broadcast between **September 21, 2025, and September 20, 2026.**

4. ALL ENTRIES MUST BE LOCALLY-PRODUCED AND LOCALLY-AIRED under the jurisdiction of the News Department. Segments that air on networks or syndicated services are eligible only in **TV-17 and R-14.** Exceptions include those entries in the Statewide and Digital Categories.

4.1 Radio and TV networks with news bureaus in the contest area may compete in the network categories only.
(TV Category TV-17 and Radio Category R-14)

4.2 Entries produced by networks of local stations or consortiums of stations for initial broadcast in markets beyond or in addition to the defined contest area qualify for the competition in the network categories. These entries are not eligible in any other category. If an entry includes a partnership with an outside entity, the name of the entity must be disclosed on the entry form.

5. DESIGNATED NEWS WEEK

5.1 All entries in the Best News Broadcast categories must have been originally broadcast during the "Designated News Day".

5.2 The "Designated News Day" is selected by members of the Contest Coordinating Committee
"Designated News Day" is Tuesday, May 12, 2026
"Designated News Weekend" is Sunday, May 17, 2026

6. PREPARATION OF ENTRIES

6.1 The RTNA Board of Directors has established the following entry fees for the Golden Mike Awards®

Radio, Division A	**$100 per entry**
Radio, Division B	**$85 per entry**
Radio Statewide	**$100 per entry**
Radio Network	**$110 per entry**
Television, Division A	**$130 per entry**
Television, Division B	**$110 per entry**
Television, Statewide	**$130 per entry**
Television, Network	**$150 per entry**

Digital Reporting	**$150 per entry**
Podcast	**$150 per entry**
Streaming	**$200 per entry**
Government Agency	**$200 per entry**

6.2 Entry Forms must be filled out and submitted on-line by the entry deadline at www.rtnasocal.org. Entry fees for individual entries must be paid on-line. Entry fees for station entries may be paid on-line or by a station check to the "Radio & Television News Association of Southern California" (or "RTNA").

6.3 Television entries must be posted on the internet on a self-hosted website such as a station website, Vimeo or a private YouTube channel. Entries on the internet must supply a functioning direct URL on the entry form that DOES NOT REQUIRE A REGISTRATION OR A PASSWORD. PLEASE DO NOT INCLUDE ANY AUDIO/VIDEO PRE-ROLL MATERIAL THAT PLAYS PRIOR TO THE ENTRY MATERIAL. All entries must have commercials deleted.

6.4 Radio entries must be posted on the internet on a self-hosted website such as a station website or an audio-sharing website. Entries on the internet must supply a functioning direct URL on the entry form that does not require a registration or a password. PLEASE DO NOT INCLUDE ANY AUDIO/VIDEO PRE-ROLL MATERIAL THAT PLAYS PRIOR TO THE ENTRY MATERIAL. All entries must have commercials deleted.

6.5 Except for the deletion of commercials, all entries must be submitted as they were originally broadcast, including any network inserts or features. No editing allowed. **Each entry must be submitted on a separate internet URL.**

6.6 A station may submit multiple entries in any category, with the exception of all “Designated News Day” categories. Each station will be allowed three entries produced by different individuals per category for the DND. Individuals may enter their own work under this rule but may only submit one entry each. Individual entries in “Designated News Day” categories including “Best Newscast” must be authorized by the News Director to ensure there are only three entries per station per “DND” category.

6.7 A station submitting entries on-line **must notate name of the News Director to verify the entries**. An individual submitting entries on-line must include the name, title, and phone number of the News Supervisor who can verify the entries. Individuals submitting entries in Designated News Day categories must also notate the name of the News Director who verified the entry to ensure there is only one entry per station in "DND" categories.

6.8 For Government Agency entries: Any agency (local, state, federal) with a dedicated digital or broadcast platform, that produces regular content, can enter. Promotional or marketing campaigns are not eligible for entry. Only news-related and topical content is eligible.

6.9 Translation requirement – This rule has been eliminated, no translation required.

6.10 **Entry Submissions open September 1, 2026. Entry Deadline is October 9, 2026,** at 11:59 p.m.
LATE ENTRY DEADLINE: Late entries will incur a $30 late fee per entry in addition to the entry fee. Deadline for submission of late on-line entry forms is **October 15, 2026**, at 11:50 p.m. No entries will be accepted after **October 15, 2026**.

6.11 ALL ENTRIES WILL BE JUDGED IN THE CATEGORY SUBMITTED.

6.12 Entrant grants RTNA the right to incorporate all materials submitted by Entrant in any radio or television broadcast of the Golden Mike Awards® banquet or in any virtual presentation of the awards ceremony on any digital platform.

TELEVISION CATEGORIES

TV-01. BEST NEWS BROADCAST 60 MINUTES
NEWSCAST AIRING BETWEEN 4PM AND MIDNIGHT ONLY A & B Divisions
Format presentation should be representative of "typical" regularly scheduled daily newscast. The entry must be consistent with the station's permanent news programming format. Abbreviated or extended newscast due to a station's interim programming changes are ineligible. Entry must include a recording of the entire newscast (sports, weather, etc.) Upload a copy of newscast rundown. Entries must be submitted from the "Designated News Day". Judges will prioritize live and breaking news coverage. Entries must include coverage of news that occur during the "Designated News Day". News magazine format programs are not eligible in this category but may be eligible in TV-14 Best Specialty News Program category.

TV-02. BEST NEWS BROADCAST 30 MINUTES OR LESS
NEWSCAST AIRING BETWEEN 4PM AND MIDNIGHT ONLY A & B Divisions
Format presentation should be representative of "typical" regularly scheduled daily newscast. The entry must be consistent with the station's permanent news programming format. Abbreviated or extended newscast due to a station's interim programming changes is ineligible. Entry must include a recording of the entire newscast (sports, weather, etc.) Upload a copy of newscast rundown. Entries must be submitted from the "Designated News Day". Judges will prioritize live and breaking news coverage. Entries must include coverage of news that occurs during the "Designated News Day". News magazine format programs are not eligible in this category but may be eligible in TV-14 Best Specialty News Program category.

TV-03. BEST DAYTIME NEWS BROADCAST ANY LENGTH
NEWSCAST AIRING BETWEEN MIDNIGHT AND 4PM. A & B Divisions
Entry may not exceed a continuous 60-minute portion. Format presentation should be representative of "typical" regularly scheduled daily newscast. The entry must be consistent with the station's permanent news programming format. Abbreviated or extended newscasts beyond usual length due to a station's interim programming changes are ineligible. Entry must include a recording of the entire newscast (sports, weather, etc.) Upload a copy of newscast rundown. Entries must be submitted from the "Designated News Day". Entries must include coverage of news that occurs during the "Designated News Day". Judges will prioritize live and breaking news coverage. News magazine format programs are not eligible in this category but may be eligible in TV-14 Best Specialty News Program category.

TV-04. BEST WEEKEND NEWSCAST, ANY LENGTH One Division
Format presentation should be representative of "typical" regularly scheduled weekend newscast. The entry must be consistent with the station's permanent news programming format. Abbreviated or extended newscasts beyond usual length due to a station's interim programming changes as well as news magazine format programs are ineligible. Entry must include a recording of a live newscast (sports, weather, etc.) not to exceed 30 minutes. Upload a copy of newscast rundown. Any newscast from the weekend immediately following the "Designated News Week" is eligible. Judges will prioritize live and breaking news coverage. Entries must include coverage of news that occurs during the day of the newscast. Judges will prioritize live and breaking news coverage. News magazine format programs are not eligible in this category but may be eligible in TV-14 Best Specialty News Program category.

TV-05. BEST SPORTSCAST A & B Divisions
A comprehensive sports news report in a regularly-scheduled newscast which may include a sports feature and/or sports commentary, aired on any day in the contest period.

TV-06. BEST WEATHER SEGMENT A & B Divisions
A comprehensive weather report in a regularly-scheduled newscast aired on any day in the contest period.

TV-07. BEST INDIVIDUAL WRITING One Division
Individual writing effort on a news or feature story.

TV-08. BEST SPORTS REPORTING A & B Divisions
Individual reporter's enterprise on a single, one-time sports news story or feature.

TV-09. BEST CONTINUING COVERAGE A & B Divisions
Individual or team effort of an ongoing breaking news story, which may be a mix of anchors, field reporters, and taped segments. Can be a composite recording of no more than 30 minutes. Composite submission must have a written summary indicating extent of coverage.

TV-10. BEST "LIVE" COVERAGE OF 2025 ELECTION COVERAGE One Division
Best continuing coverage of the 2025 Elections. Team effort of the election coverage, which may be a mix of anchors, field reporters, and taped segments. Can be a composite recording of no more than 30 minutes. Composite submission must have a written summary indicating extent of coverage. Does not include **Political Debates.**

TV-11. BEST "LIVE" COVERAGE OF A NEWS STORY A & B Divisions
Individual or team effort on a breaking news story. **Must be live**, on-scene coverage and not taped or anchor coverage. Can be a composite recording not to exceed 30 minutes. Composite submission must have a written summary indicating extent of coverage. **Only live on scene reporter coverage will be judged.** Live coverage of the 2025 Elections is eligible in TV-10 and not TV-11.

TV-12. THE JEFF BAUGH AWARD FOR BEST AIRBORNE COVERAGE One Division
Individual or team effort on a breaking news story from airborne reporters. Coverage from the ground is not eligible. Must be live, on-scene coverage and not taped or anchored coverage. Can be a composite recording not to exceed 30 minutes. Composite submission must have a written summary indicating extent of coverage. Entries cannot use a live feed from another station or pool coverage. Footage from a drone or UAV program is eligible.

TV-13. BEST SPECIALTY NEWS PROGRAM One Division
News program that may include a mix of news coverage with topical lifestyle issues, interviews, debates, commentary, feature reports, entertainment reports, and in-depth reporting of a news story.

TV-14. BEST LONG FORM PROGRAM OR DOCUMENTARY A & B Divisions
Individual or group effort including writing, production, and presentation of a single subject in a program produced by the News Department, that aired outside a regularly-scheduled news broadcast time period. (Entries in this category may not also be entered in the BEST NEWS SPECIAL category). Not to exceed 60 minutes.

TV-15. BEST NEWS TALK SHOW OR PUBLIC AFFAIRS PROGRAM A & B Divisions
A single program from a regularly-scheduled, issue-oriented public affairs series produced by the News Department. One-time-only programs or limited series on public affairs topics (e.g. Election Issue programs, Political Debates, Special Reports, etc.) are not eligible in this category but might be eligible in BEST NEWS SPECIAL or BEST DOCUMENTARY.

TV-16. BEST NEWS REPORTING A & B Divisions
Individual reporter's enterprise on a single, one-time news story produced by the News Department. Must be 10 min or less.

TV-17. BEST NEWS REPORTING BY A CABLE OR BROADCAST NETWORK One Division
Individual reporter's enterprise on a single, one-time news story produced by the News Department. Cable or broadcast network must have a bureau within RTNA boundaries and story must be produced in and specific to contest area.

TV-18. BEST TELEVISION SERIES REPORTING One Division
Individual or group effort on a series of reports on a single topic, news or feature.

TV-19. BEST INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING A & B Divisions
An expose' on a single subject, digging up or revealing new information, reported in one program or series. Must be produced by the News Department. Entry must include a chronology of how the investigation was developed, reported and follow-up. (Notes on entry should include as much information as possible: What prompted the story? How many hours expended to research the story? The result of the investigation? Impact and current status?)

TV-20. BEST SERIOUS FEATURE REPORTING, 5 MINUTES OR LESS A & B Divisions
Individual reporter's effort on a single subject produced by the News Department. A serious feature may be an in-depth look at a breaking news story or a sidebar to an ongoing story.

TV-21. BEST SERIOUS FEATURE REPORTING, 5 MINUTES OR LONGER A & B Divisions
Individual reporter's effort on a single subject produced by the News Department. A serious feature may be an in-depth look at a breaking news story or a sidebar to an ongoing story.

TV-22. BEST LIGHT FEATURE REPORTING, 5 MINUTES OR LESS A & B Divisions
Individual reporter's effort on a single subject produced by the News Department. A light feature may be humorous or a unique treatment of the passing scene, a light look at a serious subject or a serious look at a light subject.

TV-23. BEST LIGHT FEATURE REPORTING, 5 MINUTES OR LONGER A & B Divisions
Individual reporter's effort on a single subject produced by the News Department. A light feature may be humorous or a unique treatment of the passing scene, a light look at a serious subject or a serious look at a light subject.

TV-24. THE SAM RUBIN AWARD FOR BEST ENTERTAINMENT REPORTING, 10 MINUTES OR LESS A & B Divisions
Individual or team effort on a single entertainment story or series of stories on a single subject.

TV-25. BEST BUSINESS AND CONSUMER REPORTING, 10 MINUTES OR LESS A & B Divisions
Individual or team effort on a single business, consumer, financial, or economic story on a single subject.

TV-26 BEST GOVERNMENT AND POLITICAL REPORTING, 10 MINUTES OR LESS A & B Divisions
Individual or team effort on a single government, political, or public policy story on a single subject.

TV-27 BEST MEDICAL & SCIENCE REPORTING. 10 MINUTES OR LESS A & B Divisions
Individual or team effort on a single medical, science, or technology story on a single subject.

TV-28. BEST ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTING, 10 MINUTES OR LESS A & B Divisions
Individual or team effort related to an environmental story on a single subject.

TV-29. BEST NEWS VIDEOGRAPHY A & B Divisions
Best field work by a news camera crew or crews on a story. Entries from series or specials must submit only one segment. Stringers regularly selling video/audio clips to local news organizations can enter this category. Entry must be submitted as aired on television station in the Southern California market. Must be 80% original footage from contest year.

TV-30. BEST VIDEO EDITING A & B Divisions
Entries from series or specials must submit only one segment.

RADIO CATEGORIES

R-01. BEST NEWSCAST -- OVER 15 MINUTES A & B Divisions
Must be material broadcast during a continuous one-hour-or-less time period. Network or syndicated cut-ins must be included if part of original broadcast. Format presentation should be representative of "typical" broadcast day. Entry must include a recording of the entire newscast (sports, weather, etc.) and 3 copies of written newscast rundown. Entries must be submitted from the "Designated News Day". Judges will prioritize live and breaking news coverage. Entries must include coverage of news that occur during the "Designated News Day

R-02. BEST NEWSCAST -- UNDER 15 MINUTES A & B Divisions
Must be material broadcast during a continuous 15 minute-or-less time period. Network or syndicated cut-ins must be included if part of original broadcast. Format presentation should be representative of "typical" broadcast day. Entry must include a recording of the entire newscast (sports, weather, etc.) and 3 copies of written newscast rundown. Entries must be submitted from the "Designated News Day". Judges will prioritize live and breaking news coverage. Entries must include coverage of news that occur during the "Designated News Day".

R-03. BEST WEEKEND NEWSCAST One Division
Must be material broadcast during continuous one-hour-or-less time period. Network or syndicated cut-ins must be included if part of original broadcast. Format presentation should be representative of "typical" broadcast day. Entry must include a recording of a live newscast (sports, weather, etc.) not exceed 10 minutes. Upload a copy of the newscast rundown or other supporting material on the entry form. Entries must be submitted from any newscast from the weekend immediately following the "Designated News Week." Judges will prioritize live and breaking news coverage. Entries must include coverage of news that occurs on the day of the newscast.

R-04. BEST SPORTSCAST One Division
A comprehensive sports report which may include a sports feature or sports commentary, in a regularly-scheduled newscast aired on any day in the contest period.

R-05. BEST SPORTS REPORTING One Division
Individual reporter's enterprise on a single, one-time sports news story or feature.

R-06. BEST TRAFFIC REPORT One Division
A comprehensive traffic report in a regularly-scheduled newscast aired on any day in the contest period. **Individuals working for a Division A station may not enter in Division B on behalf of its lower division affiliates.**

R-07. BEST INDIVIDUAL WRITING One Division
Individual writing effort on a news or feature story.

R-08. BEST CONTINUING COVERAGE A & B Divisions
Individual or team effort of an ongoing breaking news story, which may be a mix of anchors, field reporters, and taped segments. Can be a composite recording of no more than 30 minutes. Composite submission must have a written summary indicating extent of coverage.

R-09. BEST "LIVE" COVERAGE OF THE 2025 ELECTIONS One Division
Best continuing coverage of the 2025 Elections. Team effort of the election coverage, which may be a mix of anchors, field reporters, and taped segments. Can be a composite recording of no more than 30 minutes. Composite submission must have a written summary indicating extent of coverage. Does not include **Political Debates.**

R-10. BEST "LIVE" COVERAGE OF A NEWS STORY A & B Divisions
Individual or team effort on a breaking news story. **Must be live**, on-scene coverage and not taped or anchor coverage. Can be a composite recording not to exceed 30 minutes. Composite submission must have a written summary indicating extent of coverage. **Only live on scene reporter coverage will be judged.** Live coverage of the 2025 Elections is eligible in R-09 and not R-10.

R-11. BEST LONG FORM PROGRAM OR DOCUMENTARY A & B Divisions
Individual or group effort including writing, production, and presentation of a single subject in a program produced by the News Department, that aired outside a regularly-scheduled news broadcast time period. Not to exceed 60 minutes.

R-12. BEST NEWS TALK SHOW OR PUBLIC AFFAIRS PROGRAM A & B Divisions
A single program from a regularly-scheduled, issue-oriented public affairs series produced by the News Department. One-time-only programs or limited series on public affairs topics (e.g. Election Issue programs, Political Debates, Special Reports, etc.) are not eligible in this category but might be eligible in BEST DOCUMENTARY.

R-13. BEST NEWS REPORTING A & B Divisions
Individual reporter's enterprise on a single, one-time news story produced by the News Department.

R-14. BEST NEWS REPORTING BY A RADIO NETWORK OR CONTENT SYNDICATOR One Division
Individual reporter's enterprise on a single, one-time news story produced by or for the News Department. Radio network or syndicator must have a bureau within RTNA boundaries and story must be produced in and specific to contest area.

R-15. BEST RADIO SERIES REPORTING One Division
Individual or group effort on a series of reports on a single topic, news or feature.

R-16. BEST INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING A & B Divisions
An expose' on a single subject, digging up or revealing new information. Can be reported in one segment or a series of segments (The investigation entered in this category may not also be entered in BEST DOCUMENTARY or BEST NEWS SPECIAL categories.) Must be produced by the News department. Entry must include a chronology of how the investigation was developed, reported and the follow-up. (Notes on the entry should include as much as possible: What prompted the story? How many hours expended to research the story? The result of the investigation? The impact and current status?)

R-17. BEST SERIOUS FEATURE REPORTING One Division
Individual reporter's effort on a single subject produced by the News department. A serious feature may be an in-depth look at a breaking news story or a sidebar to an ongoing story.

R-18. BEST LIGHT FEATURE REPORTING One Division
Individual reporter's effort on a single subject produced by the News department. A light feature may be humorous or a unique treatment of the passing scene; a light look at a serious subject or a serious look at a light subject.

R-19. BEST ENTERTAINMENT REPORTING One Division
Individual or team effort on a single entertainment story on a single subject.

R-20. BEST BUSINESS AND CONSUMER REPORTING One Division
Individual or team effort on a single business, consumer, financial, or economic story on a single subject.

R-21. BEST GOVERNMENT AND POLITICAL REPORTING One Division
Individual or team effort on a single government, political, or public policy story, on a single subject.

R-22. BEST MEDICAL AND SCIENCE REPORTING One Division
Individual or team effort on a single medical, science, or technology story, on a single subject.

R-23. BEST ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTING One Division
Individual or team effort related to an environmental story on a single subject.

R-24. BEST RADIO USE OF SOUND One Division
Capturing drama and emotion in (ambient or natural sound) coverage of news event in the field AND/OR technical and artistic excellence in production, mixing and editing.

DIGITAL/STREAMING CATEGORIES

D1. BEST DIGITAL NEWS REPORTING – One Division
Individual reporter's or group's enterprise for a news story that was initially prepared for and presented on the station's website. Entry can be audio and/or video and may not be altered from its original form. A title graphic or other visual identification is acceptable. Stories initially prepared for and broadcast on the station and then repurposed on the website are not eligible. Stories from sources other than the News Department are not eligible. Entrant must provide content via links which are ad-free, paywall-free, and password-free. **College-affiliated websites are eligible to enter Division B if the school facilities are physically located within the contest area.**

D2. BEST NEWS REPORTING VIA SOCIAL MEDIA - One Division
Individual reporter's or group's enterprise for a news story that was initially prepared for and posted on the station's official social media platform(s). Entry can be audio/video and may not be altered from its original form. A title graphic or other visual identification is acceptable. Stories initially prepared for and broadcast on the station and then repurposed on the website are not eligible. Stories from sources other than the News Department are not eligible. **College-affiliated platforms are eligible to enter Division B if the school facilities are physically located within the contest area.**

D3. BEST DIGITAL BREAKING NEWS REPORTING – One Division
Individual reporter's or group's breaking news coverage prepared for digital media including websites and/or social media platforms. Original content must first appear on digital platforms. Stories initially prepared for and broadcast on the station and then repurposed on digital platforms are not eligible. Stories from sources other than the News Department are not eligible. Entrant must provide content via links which are ad-free, paywall-free, and password-free.

D4. BEST DOCUMENTARY ON A STREAMING PLATFORM – One Division
The documentary can be a single episode or series and must be originally produced for, and initially posted, on a streaming platform. The documentary can be produced by any person(s) or entities locally and outside of California, but must feature a person, location, or event in the state of California. Entrant must provide ad-free / paywall-free links to the content and include any password or access information. Any production partnerships must be disclosed on the entry form.

PODCAST CATEGORIES

P1. BEST NEWS PODCAST One Division
News-oriented Audio and/or Video podcast initially prepared for and presented on the station's website or podcast platform. Entry may not be altered from its original form. Stories initially prepared for and broadcast on the station and then repurposed in its original form on the podcast are not eligible. A longer version of a broadcast story is eligible if it was not originally broadcast on the station. Podcasts can be any length and any format (single story, newscast, news talk show). Podcasts must be produced by the News Department. Entrant must provide content via links which are ad-free, paywall-free, and password-free. **College-affiliated podcasts are eligible to enter Division B if the school facilities are physically located within the contest area. Any producer partnerships must be disclosed on the entry form. Only stations in the RTNA contest area are eligible to enter this category.**

P2. BEST FEATURE PODCAST One Division
Individual reporter's effort on a single subject produced by the News department. A feature may be an in-depth look at a breaking news story or a sidebar to an ongoing story. News-oriented Audio or Video Podcast initially prepared for and presented on the station's website or podcast platform. Entries may not be altered from their original form. Stories initially prepared for and broadcast on the station and then repurposed in its original form on the podcast are not eligible. A longer version of a broadcast story is eligible if it was not originally broadcast on the station. Podcasts can be any length and any format (news special, series, limited series). Podcasts must be produced by the News Department. Entrant must provide content via links which are ad-free, paywall-free, and password-free. **College-affiliated podcasts are eligible to enter in Division B if the school facilities are physically located within the contest area. Any producer partnerships must be disclosed on the entry form. Only stations in the RTNA contest area are eligible to enter this category.**

P3. BEST INTERVIEW PODCAST One Division
The podcast can be hosted by one or more people and must be in the interview format. The entire podcast must feature at least one or more guests who are the primary subject of the interview. The content is open and can be biographical, comedic, political, etc. Judges will look for a host(s) ability to keep the interest of the listener; create compelling and interesting conversation. The podcast must be established and have at least 10 episodes posted within the award entry time frame. Entrant can submit a single episode or a composite of episodes no longer than 30 minutes. The content should be original and not previously broadcast on-air. Entrant must provide content via links which are ad-free, paywall-free, and password-free. **College-affiliated podcasts are eligible to enter in Division B if the school facilities are physically located within the contest area. Independent producers and entities outside the RTNA contest area are eligible to enter this category**

P4. BEST LIMITED SERIES PODCAST One Division
The podcast can be any singular topic presented in two or more episodes as a limited series. The podcast can be biographical, human interest, documentary, true crime, etc. Judges will look for compelling and interesting storytelling. Entrant must submit a composite of episodes no longer than 30 minutes. The content should be original and not previously broadcast on-air. Entrant must provide content via links which are ad-free, paywall-free, and password-free. **College-affiliated podcasts are eligible to enter in Division B if the school facilities are physically located within the contest area. Independent producers and entities outside the RTNA contest area are eligible to enter this category**

P5. BEST OPEN TOPIC PODCAST One Division
The podcast can be about any topic(s) or genre. The podcast must be established and have at least 10 episodes posted within the award entry time frame. Entrant can submit a single episode or a composite of episodes no longer than 30 minutes. The content should be original and not previously broadcast on-air. Entrant must provide content via links which are ad-free, paywall-free, and password-free. **College-affiliated podcasts are eligible to enter in Division B if the school facilities are physically located within the contest area. Independent producers and entities outside the RTNA contest area are eligible to enter this category**

TELEVISION STATEWIDE CATEGORIES

CA-TV1 BEST "LIVE" COVERAGE OF A NEWS STORY BY SINGLE STATION A & B Divisions
Individual or team effort on a breaking news story. **Must be live**, on-scene coverage and not taped or anchor coverage. Can be a composite recording not to exceed 30 minutes. Composite submission must have a written summary indicating extent of coverage. **Only live on scene reporter coverage will be judged. Stations in the RTNA contest area are NOT eligible to enter this category.**

CA-TV2 BEST NEWS REPORTING BY SINGLE STATION A & B Divisions
Individual reporter's enterprise on a single, one-time news story produced by the News Department. Must be 10 min or less. **Stations in the RTNA contest area are NOT eligible to enter this category.**

CA-TV3 BEST FEATURE REPORTING BY A SINGLE STATION A & B Divisions
Individual reporter's effort on a single subject produced by the News Department. A light feature may be humorous or a unique treatment of the passing scene, a light look at a serious subject or a serious look at a light subject. **Stations in the RTNA contest area are NOT eligible to enter this category.**

CA-TV4 BEST INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING BY SINGLE STATION A & B Divisions
An expose' on a single subject, digging up or revealing new information, reported in one program or series. Must be produced by the News Department. Entry must include a chronology of how the investigation was developed, reported and follow-up. (Notes on entry should include as much information as possible: What prompted the story? How many hours expended to research the story? The result of the investigation? Impact and current status?) **Stations in the RTNA contest area are NOT eligible to enter this category.**

CA-TV5 BEST SPORTS REPORTING BY SINGLE STATION A & B Divisions
Individual reporter's enterprise on a single, one-time sports news story or feature. **Stations in the RTNA contest area are NOT eligible to enter this category.**

CA-TV6 BEST NEWS REPORTING BY CONSORTIUM OF STATIONS One Division
Individual reporter's enterprise on a single, one-time news story produced by the News Department and broadcast on multiple stations. Must be 10 min or less. **All stations located within California are eligible to enter this category**.

CA-TV7 BEST INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING BY CONSORTIUM OF STATIONS One Division
Individual reporter's enterprise on a single, one-time news story produced by the News Department and broadcast on multiple stations. Must be 10 min or less. **All stations located within California are eligible to enter this category.**

RADIO STATEWIDE CATEGORIES

CA-R1 BEST "LIVE" COVERAGE OF A NEWS STORY A & B Divisions
Team effort on a breaking news story. **Must be live**, on-scene coverage and not taped or anchor coverage. Can be a composite recording not to exceed 30 minutes. Composite submission must have a written summary indicating extent of coverage. **Only live on scene reporter coverage will be judged. Stations in the RTNA contest area are NOT eligible to enter this category.**

CA-R2 BEST NEWS REPORTING A & B Divisions
Individual reporter's enterprise on a single, one-time news story produced by the News Department. **Stations in the RTNA contest area are NOT eligible to enter this category.**

CA-R3 BEST FEATURE REPORTING One Division
Individual reporter's effort on a single subject produced by the News department. A light feature may be humorous or a unique treatment of the passing scene; a light look at a serious subject or a serious look at a light subject. **Stations in the RTNA contest area are NOT eligible to enter this category.**

CA-R4 BEST RADIO USE OF SOUND One Division
Capturing drama and emotion in (ambient or natural sound) coverage of news event in the field AND/OR technical and artistic excellence in production, mixing and editing. **Stations in the RTNA contest area are NOT eligible to enter this category.**

CA-R5 BEST NEWS REPORTING BY CONSORTIUM OF STATIONS One Division
Individual reporter's enterprise on a single, one-time news story produced by the News Department and broadcast on multiple stations. Must be 10 min or less. **All stations within California are eligible to enter in this category.**

CA-R6 BEST INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING BY CONSORTIUM OF STATIONS One Division
Individual reporter's enterprise on a single, one-time news story produced by the News Department and broadcast on multiple stations. Must be 10 min or less. **All stations within California are eligible to enter in this category.**

GOVERNMENT AGENCY CATEGORIES

G-1 BEST SERIOUS FEATURE REPORTING One Division
Individual or team effort on a single subject produced by an agency's Digital or Broadcast Media Department. A serious feature could include an in-depth look at a breaking news story, a sidebar to an ongoing story, or a biography. Promotional or marketing campaigns are not eligible.

G-2 BEST LIGHT FEATURE REPORTING One Division
Individual or team effort on a single subject produced by an agency's Digital or Broadcast Media Department. A light feature may be humorous or a unique treatment of the passing scene; a light look at a serious subject or a serious look at a light subject. Promotional or marketing campaigns are not eligible.

G-3 DOCUMENTARY OR BEST PUBLIC AFFAIRS PROGRAM One Division
For Documentary - Individual or team effort including writing, production, and presentation of a single subject in a program produced by the Digital or broadcast media department – not to exceed 60 minutes. For Best Public Affairs Program - a single program from a regularly-scheduled, issue-oriented public affairs series produced by the Digital / Broadcast Media Department – not to exceed 60 minutes. Promotional or marketing campaigns are not eligible in this category.

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